

**REMARKS/ARGUMENTS**

Favorable reconsideration of this application as presently amended and in light of the following discussion is respectfully requested.

Claims 1-7, 9-12 and 14-22 are pending in the present application with claim 1 having been amended by the present amendment.

In the outstanding Office Action, claim 1 was objected to; claims 1, 5-7, 9 and 16-22 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as unpatentable over Applicant's Admitted Prior Art (AAPA) in view of Ostman et al.; and claims 2-4, 10-12, 14 and 15 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as unpatentable over AAPA in view of Ostman et al. and Stacey et al.

Applicant thanks the Examiner for discussing this application with Applicant's representative on April 28, 2005. During the discussion, the differences between the present invention and the applied art were discussed. No agreement was reached pending the Examiner's further review when a response is filed. Comments presented during the discussion are reiterated below.

Claim 1 has been amended in light of the objection noted in the Office Action. Accordingly, it is respectfully requested this objection be withdrawn.

Regarding the independent claims, the Office Action primarily relies on AAPA as teaching multiplexing a plurality of time slots in a single VPI/VCI and cites page 1, line 22 to page 3, lines 1-4, for example. However, as discussed during the discussion, AAPA

specifically recites that only one slot is allocated to one VPI/VCI buffer number (see page 4, lines 1-4). This differs from the invention recited in independent claim 10, for example, in which the CAM includes a look-up table having different time slot numbers allocated to a same ATM buffer number such that a plurality of time slots are multiplexed in the same ATM buffer number (see also page 4, lines 7-10, page 9, lines 20-23 and page 13, lines 14-17, for example).

Accordingly, it is respectfully submitted independent claims 1, 10 and 16 and each of the claims depending therefrom are allowable, and the rejections noted in the Office Action have been overcome.

### **CONCLUSION**

In view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, it is respectfully submitted that the application is in condition for allowance. Favorable consideration and prompt allowance are earnestly solicited. If the Examiner believes that any additional changes would place the application in better condition for allowance, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned attorney, **David A. Bilodeau**, at the telephone number listed below.

To the extent necessary, a petition for an extension of time under 37 C.F.R. § 1.136 is hereby made. Please charge any shortage in fees due in connection with the filing of this,

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concurrent and future replies, including extension of time fees, to Deposit Account 16-0607  
and please credit any excess fees to such deposit account.

Respectfully submitted,  
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